

WE CLAIM :

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising erythromycin A or a derivative thereof and alginic acid.
2. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the erythromycin A
5 derivative comprises clarithromycin.
3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the alginic acid comprises one or both of alginic acid and its salt.
4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein the salt comprises one or more of sodium alginate and calcium alginate.
- 10 5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the erythromycin A or derivative thereof and alginic acid are present in a ratio of approximately 2.5:1 to approximately 50:1.
6. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the particle size of erythromycin A or a derivative thereof is less than approximately 50 microns.
- 15 7. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the erythromycin A or a derivative thereof and alginic acid comprise granules.
8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 7, wherein the granules further comprise pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.
9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the erythromycin A or a
20 derivative thereof and alginic acid surround a core.
10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, further comprising pharmaceutically acceptable excipients surrounding the core.
11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising one or more of a binder, a disintegrant, a flavoring agent, and a coating.
- 25 12. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising one or more active ingredients, wherein the active ingredients comprise one or more of omeprazole,

metronidazole, amoxicillin, rifampicin, lansoprazole, ciprofloxacin, ethambutol, and ritonavir.

13. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, wherein the erythromycin A or a derivative thereof and the one or more active ingredients are combined in a single pharmaceutical composition.

14. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition of erythromycin A or derivative thereof, the process comprising:

mixing erythromycin A or a derivative thereof and alginic acid to form a mixture.

15. The process of claim 14, further comprising granulating the mixture with an aqueous solvent.

16. The process of claim 14, further comprising dispersing the mixture in an aqueous solvent and layering onto one or more inert cores.

17. The process of claim 14, further comprising coating with a coating material.

18. The process of claim 16, wherein the inert core comprises one or more of microcrystalline cellulose, starch, sugar or lactose.

19. The process of claim 18, wherein the inert core comprises microcrystalline cellulose.

20. The process of claim 18, wherein the inert core has a particle size of between approximately 50 microns and approximately 1000 microns.

21. The process of claim 18, wherein the inert core has a particle size of between approximately 100 microns and approximately 350 microns.

22. The process of claim 14, further comprising mixing one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients with the erythromycin A or derivative and alginic acid.

23. The process of claim 22, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable excipient comprises one or more of a binder, a disintegrant, and a flavoring agent.

24. The process of claim 23, wherein the binder comprises one or more of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, pregelatinised starch, gelatin, and sucrose.
- 5 25. The process of claim 23, wherein the disintegrant comprises one or more of croscarmellose sodium, sodium starch glycolate, cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, and starch.
26. The process of claim 14 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated as a dry syrup, suspension, or chewable, dispersible tablet.
- 10 27. The process of claim 14, wherein the erythromycin derivative comprises clarithromycin.
28. A method of treating a bacterial infection in a mammal in need of treatment, the method comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising erythromycin A or a derivative thereof and alginic acid.
- 15 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the erythromycin derivative comprises clarithromycin.
30. The method of claim 28, wherein the alginic acid comprises one or both of alginic acid and its salt.
31. The method of claim 30, wherein the salt comprises one or more of sodium alginate and calcium alginate.
- 20 32. The method of claim 28, wherein the erythromycin A or derivative thereof and alginic acid are present in a ratio of approximately 2.5:1 to approximately 50:1.
33. The method of claim 28, wherein the particle size of erythromycin A or a derivative thereof is less than approximately 50 microns.
- 25 34. The method of claim 28, further comprising administering one or more of omeprazole, metronidazole, amoxicillin, rifampicin, lansoprazole, ciprofloxacin, ethambutol, and ritonavir with the erythromycin A or derivative thereof.

35. A method of masking the taste of erythromycin A or a derivative thereof in a pharmaceutical composition, the method comprising mixing the erythromycin A or derivative thereof with alginic acid.
36. The method of claim 35, wherein the erythromycin derivative comprises clarithromycin.
37. The method of claim 35, wherein the erythromycin A or a derivative thereof is mixed with the alginic acid in a ratio of between approximately 2.5:1 to approximately 50:1.